March 27, 2007

TO: HOUSE FISH AND GAME COMMITTEE

FROM: STAN FRASIER

RE: SB 78

SB 78 offers a solution to a problem created by a handful people trying to block public access to public waterways. SB 78 does not take away any private property or infringe on private property rights.

EXHIB

The problems with SB 78 exist only in the fertile imagination of the Montana Stockgrowers Association's lobbyists. Contrary to the dire predictions of John Bloomquist of what might or could occur if SB 78 were passed, none of the so-called "private property" attacks, "takings", or trespass problems are included in SB 78.

Read the bill!

SB 78 is not complicated; it is a straightforward idea that is easily understood by most Montanans. It is not about livestock, it is not about parking, and it is defiantly not about "private property rights". It is about public access to public right of ways.

Your choices are simple; do you want to side with an out of state multi millionaire and the Montana Stockgrowers Association (a small special interest group) or do you want to side with the 300000 Montanan's that fish and float Montana's rivers.

This is an issue that is being closely watched, and your votes will be included in every Legislative Score Card that is published and sent to the press and the thousands of members of the public interest groups like the Montana Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, Public Access Association and dozens of others.

The people of Montana want and deserve fair treatment for all, not special treatment for a few.

Stan Frasier,
President, Helena Hunters & Anglers Association